

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 2, 4, 8, 9, and 10 have been amended. Claims 4 and 5 have been cancelled. New claim 15 has been added. Therefore, claims 1-3 and 6-15 are pending in the application. No new matter is added by the Amendments. Entry of the amendments and reconsideration of the Restriction in view of the following Remarks is respectfully requested.

The Examiner has required restriction to one of four groups:

Group I: Claims 1-3 and 6-11;

Group II: Claims 4-5;

Group III: Claim 12; and

Group IV: Claims 13-14.

Applicants hereby elect Group I, claims 1-3 and 6-11, with traverse. The Examiner is reminded that the present application is a national-stage application filed under 35 U.S.C. 371. Accordingly, the unity of invention practice, and not restriction practice, is applicable. Under the unity of invention standard, the applicant has the right to include in a single application all inventions linked so as to form a single general inventive concept. *MPEP 1893.03(d)*. A group of inventions is considered to be so linked where there is a technical relationship among the inventions that involves at least one common or corresponding special technical feature. *Id.* "Special technical features," in turn, is defined as meaning those technical features that define the contribution which each claimed invention, considered as a whole, makes over the prior art. *Id.*

The Examiner is understood to allege that Claims 4 and 5 do not share a special technical feature with Claims 1-3, and 6-11. Applicants have elected Claims 1-3 and 6-11, but respectfully request reconsideration of the restriction requirement in view of new claim 15 and the amendments made herein to the original claims. The contribution of the present invention is a novel type II human Hepatoma-derived Growth Factor (HDGF2) comprising the amino

respectfully request reconsideration of the restriction requirement in view of new claim 15 and the amendments made herein to the original claims. The contribution of the present invention is a novel type II human Hepatoma-derived Growth Factor (HDGF2) comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4. Because of the correlation between the amino acid and the corresponding codon, the nucleotide sequence of nucleotides 121-732 in SEQ ID NO: 3 and the encoded amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4 should be deemed as corresponding special technical features that define the contribution the invention makes over the prior art. Applicants submit, therefore, that the present claims are linked so as to form a single general inventive concept. Applicants respectfully request, therefore, that the Restriction requirement be withdrawn.

Summary

Applicants submit that all pending claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative if prosecution may be assisted thereby.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903
(612) 332.5300

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Garen J. Gotfredson
Garen J. Gotfredson
Reg. No. 44,722
GJG

